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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SORENSEN
The White House

You will recall your recent telephone call to me asking that Senator Keating be informed that we have no objection to his releasing his memorandum on Cuba. I am enclosing the reply which I sent him. It was substantially abbreviated by the Secretary from the version which you and I discussed.

Also enclosed is Senator Keating's reply to me. He takes the position that he has deferred making it public because John McCone had told him that was the President's wishes but that as a result of the recent withdrawal of "some Soviet military personnel" he intended to discuss it publicly in the near future.


Frederick G. Dutton

Enclosures

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March 15, 1963

Dear Senator Keating:

I am writing in connection with your recent memorandum suggesting steps that might be considered in relation to Cuba. The Department has recently received several Congressional inquiries asking whether, as reported, we have resisted public release of that memorandum and, if so, the reason for that.

In replying to those inquiries, we are saying that publication of the memorandum has not been opposed, and the decision on making the paper public is quite properly yours.

The Department appreciates having had the opportunity to review the recommendations along with those of other Members of Congress.

Sincerely,

Frederick G. Dutton

"I thought it only proper that you be kept informed of our comment on this matter."

The Honorable
Kenneth Keating,
United States Senate.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

March 20, 1963

Honorable Frederick G. Button
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Fred:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 15 with regard to the public release of my Cuban policy memorandum. I appreciate your advising me of the State Department's replies to Congressional inquiries on this subject, but in view of the comments in your letter, I want to be certain that you are fully informed of the situation.

My Cuba policy memorandum was delivered to Mr. John McCone, the Director of the CIA, on February 8th at a meeting in my office initiated by Mr. McCone at the President's behest. Mr. McCone advised me that the memorandum would be transmitted to the President and it was mutually agreed that the contents of the memorandum would not be disclosed until the President and his advisers had an opportunity to review my recommendations. On February 19th, I requested Mr. McCone's advice as to whether the President desired that the contents of the memorandum be kept confidential and he indicated that he would take this matter up with the President. On February 20th, Mr. McCone advised me that he had discussed the matter with the President that day. He stated that the President had made it clear that while public release of the memorandum was a matter for my own judgment, the President's view was that its release at that time might be harmful and might adversely affect the troop removal problem.

Although I did not wholly agree with this reasoning, I felt that I should defer to the President's view and have refrained from public discussion of my recommendations. However, now that some Soviet military personnel apparently have been withdrawn, I know of no reason not to disclose my recommendations and do plan to discuss them publicly in the near future.

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Honorable Frederick M. Mason

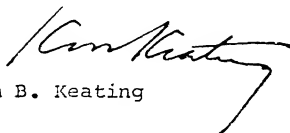
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March 20, 1963

I am grateful for this opportunity to clarify the situation and you may feel free to use the information in this letter in answering any further inquiries you receive on this subject.

With personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,



Kenneth B. Keating

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